

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A carrying strap including a shoulder-engaging portion, a first strap portion and a second strap portion, said shoulder-engaging portion extending along the general longitudinal direction of said strap and being intermediate of said first and second strap portions, each of said first and second strap portions including a proximal section and a distal section, said proximal section being intermediate of said shoulder-engaging portion and said distal portion, said proximal and said distal sections of said first and said second strap portions being configured so that, when used as a shoulder carrying strap for carrying a load, said proximal and distal sections respectively direct weight of said load towards and away from the body centerline of the person carrying said load.

22. (New) A carrying strap according to claim 21, wherein said proximal sections of said first and said second strap portions extend from said shoulder-engaging portion generally along a direction which is divergent from said general longitudinal direction of said strap, and said distal sections extend from said proximal section along a direction which is generally convergent towards said longitudinal direction of said strap.

23. (New) A carrying strap according to claim 21, wherein said proximal sections of said first and second strap portions extend away from said general longitudinal direction and said distal sections extend along a direction which is generally opposite to the direction of extension of said proximal sections.

24. (New) A carrying strap according to claim 23, wherein a recess is present between said shoulder-engaging portion and said proximal sections, said recess being adapted for negotiating the trapezius muscle of the person carrying said load.

25. ^{2 of}₁ (New) A carrying strap according to claim 24, wherein said shoulder-engaging portion includes a smooth shoulder-engaging surface and a frictional shoulder-engaging surface which are adapted for reversible use so that, when said strap is reversibly used, the weight directing characteristics of said proximal and distal sections of said first and second strap portions are maintained by also reversing the front and rear relationship of said first and second strap portions in relation to the person carrying said load.

26. (New) A carrying strap according to claim 23, wherein said shoulder-engaging portion and said first and second strap portions in their entirety are generally W-shaped, the central recessed portion of said generally W-shaped strap configuration being adapted for negotiating the trapezius muscle of said load carrying person.

27. (New) A carrying strap according to claim 21, wherein said shoulder-engaging portion includes a concave portion and is adapted for reversible use, said shoulder-engaging portion further including first and second alternative shoulder-engaging surfaces, such that when said carrying strap is used in the reverse form, said weight directing properties of said first and second portions are maintained by reversing the front and rear relationship of said first and second portions relative to the weight carrying person so that, during normal use, said shoulder-engaging portion is urged towards the neck of said weight carrying person regardless of the shoulder-engaging surface that is in contact with said person.

28. (New) A carrying strap according to claim 27, wherein said first and second alternative shoulder-engaging surfaces have substantially dissimilar frictional characteristics.

29. (New) A carrying strap according to claim 21, wherein said first strap portion, said second strap portion and said shoulder-engaging portion together are substantially W-shaped.

30. (New) A carrying strap according to claim 21, wherein said first strap portion, second strap portion and said shoulder-engaging portion resemble two boomerangs connected together.

31. (New) A carrying strap according to claim 30, wherein the carrying strap portions comprising said first strap portion, said second strap portion and said shoulder-engaging portion are substantially symmetrical about the center of said shoulder-engaging portion.

32. (New) A dual strap shoulder-carrying assembly comprising first and second carrying straps of claim 21, and further including fastening means provided between distal sections of said first and second strap portions of said first and second carrying straps for converting said dual strap shoulder-carrying assembly into a carrying strap of claim 21.

33. (New) A dual strap shoulder-carrying assembly of claim 32, wherein each said first and second carrying straps includes a reversible shoulder-engaging portion having a smooth shoulder-engaging surface and a frictional shoulder-engaging surface, said fastening means being disposed on said smooth shoulder-engaging surfaces so that the converted shoulder-carrying strap comprises two reversible and alternative shoulder-engaging surfaces which are substantially frictional.

34. (New) A carrying strap including a shoulder-engaging portion disposed between a first and a second longitudinal strap ends, said shoulder-engaging portion including a strap length of a first curvature, wherein said shoulder-engaging portion is connected to each said longitudinal strap end via a curved strap portion of a second curvature, said second curvature being substantially opposite to said first curvature, said strap including alternate shoulder engaging surfaces having dissimilar frictional characteristics, said alternate shoulder engaging surfaces including a slippery surface and an alternate non-slippery shoulder engaging surface, said slippery surface being used for shoulder engaging when said carrying strap is used as a strap member in a dual strap carrying system.

35. (New) A carrying strap according to claim 34, further including fastening means for coupling with fastening means disposed on the slippery alternative shoulder engaging surface of a counterpart carrying strap member of a dual strap carrying system.

36. (New) A golf bag including a carrying strap of claim 21.

37. (New) A golf bag including a carrying strap of claim 27.

38. (New) A golf bag including a carrying strap of claim 29.

39. (New) A golf bag including a dual strap shoulder-carrying assembly of claim 32.

40. (New) A golf bag including a dual strap shoulder-carrying assembly of claim 33.
